

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0027] of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

In certain embodiments, the coupling agent is a diacyl chloride derived from adipic acid, ~~suberic~~_{suberic} acid, sebacic acid, or ~~dodecanoic~~_{dodecanoic} ~~dodecanedioic~~ acid.

Please replace paragraph [0060] of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0060] During the reaction with a lactone to produce MDs, the diol forms an initiating core B having the following structural formula:

--[R₁>-- (B)

Macromerdiols**Macromerdiols** (MDs)

Please replace paragraph [0061] of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

Macromerdiols**Macromerdiols** (MDs) are formed by the reaction of a lactone and a diol and have the following structural formula: HO--[--(R₂)--C(=O)--O--]_m--[R₁]--[--O--C(=O)--(R₂)--]_m--OH wherein m is a number of repeats from about 4 to about 60; in certain embodiments m=10 to 40.

Coupling Agent

Please replace paragraph [0063] of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

Coupling agents have the following structural formula: X--C(=O)--(R₃)--C(=O)--X where R₃ is a C₄-C₁₀ aliphatic or aromatic group, preferably R₃ is C₄, C₆, C₈, or C₁₀, X is a halide, preferably Cl. In certain embodiments, diacyls are derived from adipic acid (C₆), ~~suberic~~_{suberic} acid (C₈), sebacic acid (C₁₀), and ~~dodecanoic~~_{dodecanoic} ~~dodecanedioic~~ acid (C₁₂).

Please replace paragraph [0066] of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

Polyesters of the present invention have the following structural formula: [-[A]_m-[B]-[A]_m-[D]-]_x where m is a number of repeats from about 4 to about 60, and x is a number of macromeric units from about 1 to about 100. The term "**macromeric****macromeric** unit" as used in this disclosure means a repeating unit formed from a combination of repeating lactone derived units (homo and hetero monomers), an initiating core, and a coupling unit.

Please replace paragraph [0087] of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

| The MDs (synthesized aas described in Example 21) were linked using hydrophobic diacid dichlorides of varying carbon length (C₆, C₈, C₁₀, and C₁₂) to form higher molecular weight (MW) polyesters. The synthesis of polyesters derived from MDs with adipoyl chloride is described below. 3 g of the MD was dissolved in 40 mL of MeCl in a 100-mL round-bottom flask. To this solution, 0.55 g of adipoyl chloride was added drop-wise at RT. After about 1 h, 0.61 g of triethylamine was added drop-wise to the flask, and the contents of the flask were stirred for an additional 4 h at RT. The reaction mixture was then washed with 100 mL of semi-saturated sodium bicarbonate and the organic MeCl phase was separated. The MeCl phase was dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate and filtered to yield a yellow colored solution. The polymer was obtained by precipitating in a large excess of hexanes and purified by re-precipitation from MeCl in hexanes. The fibrous solid so obtained was dried at 50° C. under vacuum for 3 days. A library of various polyesters (as shown in Tables 2-4) was similarly synthesized. The polymer yield was at least 90%.